

REMARKS

The application has been amended as needed so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The Primary Examiner had helpfully pointed out some minor informalities on page 2 and page 11 of the specification, which by the present amendment have been corrected. In this regard, the Primary Examiner's careful attention to the application was sincerely appreciated.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by the British reference 1,327,382.

Reconsideration of the above rejection is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

By the present amendment, claim 4 has been cancelled, thereby obviating and rendering moot this particular ground of rejection.

The Primary Examiner had kindly indicated that claims 1-3 and 5 were allowed. Consequently, in view of the cancellation of claim 4, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance on the basis of claims 1-3 and 5 are accordingly earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this amendment or to the application in general, it would be

Application No. 10/009,764
Amdt. Dated August 6, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 9, 2003
Docket No. 8014-1058

appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

Benoît Castel

Benoît Castel, Reg. No. 35,041
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

BC/lk